Claims

1   1.   A method of composing an electronic document, comprising the steps
2   of:
3   a)   storing region information relating to at least two independently
4   formattable regions in a document; and
5   b)   storing content information in at least two content fields in the
6   document, wherein the structure of the document is governed by the structure
7   information and the content of the document is governed by the content
8   information.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein each region field is assigned a unique
2   content field.

1   3.   The method of claim 1 further comprising step (c) storing attribute
2   information in at least two attribute fields, wherein the attribute information and
3   the content information are associated with the region information.

1   4.   The method of claim 3, wherein the attributes comprise at least one of
2   highlighting, bolding, underlining, italicizing, a default language, and a
3   background color.

1   5.   The method of claim 3, wherein each region is associated with a unique
2   content field or a unique attribute field.

1   6.   The method of claim 3, wherein at least one region field has a unique
2   combination of the content field and the attribute field.

7. The method of claim 3, wherein at least one of the regions corresponds to a header of an email message, and at least another of the regions corresponds to a body of an email message.

8. The method of claim 3, wherein the region information, the content information, and the attribute information are contained in a document management file.

9. The method of claim 3, wherein the region information, the content information, and the attribute information are contained in a document management table.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the document management table is translated into a standardized markup language prior to transmission of the document across a network.

11. The method of claim 3, wherein a region having a predetermined name has at least one associated region default attribute.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the associated region default attribute may be overridden in the associated attribute field.

13. The method of claim 3 further comprising the step (d) translating the document into a plurality of HTML documents.

14. The method of claim 3 wherein at least one of the content information or the attribute information is linked information.

15. The method of claim 3 wherein at least one of the attribute fields comprises a functional attribute.

14. A system for processing an electronic document, comprising:

a) a storage unit for storing region information, content information, and attribute information of the electronic document; and

b) a processor unit, wherein the processor unit associates the attribute information and the content information with the region information.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the region information governs the structure of the document, the content information governs the content within each region, and the attributes region governs the format of each region.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the attribute region further governs the functionality associated with a particular region.

17. The system of claim 14, wherein the processor unit translates the region information, the content information, and the attribute information into at least two documents prior to transmitting across a network.

18. A computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for storing an electronic document, the computer readable program code comprising:

a) computer readable program for storing region information corresponding to regions of the electronic document; and

b) computer readable program for associating attribute information and content information with each of the regions, the attributes governing a presentation of the electronic document and the content information governing the content of the region when rendered.

19. The computer usable medium of claim 18, wherein the attribute information comprises functional attribute information.

1 20.   The computer usable medium of claim 19, wherein the region

2 information, the content information, and the attribute information are stored in

3 a document management table.

1 21.   A system for processing an electronic document, comprising:

2 a)   storage unit means for storing region information, content information,

3 and attribute information of the electronic document; and

4 b)   processor unit means, wherein the processor unit means associates the

5 attribute information and the content information with the region information.

1 22.   The system of claim 21, wherein the region information governs the

2 structure of the document, the content information governs the content within

3 each region, and the attributes region governs the format of each region.

1 23.   The system of claim 22, wherein the attribute region further governs the

2 functionality associated with a particular region.

1 24.   The system of claim 21, wherein the processor unit means translates the

2 region information, the content information, and the attribute information into at

3 least two documents prior to transmitting across a network.